

# Serious <sup>A</sup>ADVICE

TO THE

*African and Indian Company.*

**I**T is proposed that the Directors may be pleased to Call not only the *General Council*, but as many of the *Partners* of the Company as can be had now in time of *Parliament*; In Order to consult the common Concerns of the Company, where the *True Interest* of the Company may be *Calmly* and *Seriously* considered, without *Passion* or *By-ends*; And if by them, it be found expedient, the following Proposals may be debated, agreed unto, or rejected, and that others may be added, or put in their place.

1<sup>mo</sup>. That a Dutiful and Earnest Address may be made to the King and Parliament, Representing the Injuries done us by *England*, in order to such Redress as the Nature of the thing will bear, and for preventing of future Injuries.

2<sup>do</sup>. That since hitherto we have received much Loss, and little Gain, if any, by our being united under one Sovereign with *England*; And that the Opposition which occurs in the Interest of two distinct Kingdoms under one Sovereign, are not only Embarrassing, but oft times hurtful, especially to the weakest; That therefore the Union of the two Kingdoms, either entirely, or at least as to mutual Trade amongst themselves,

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themselves, may be now seriously intended, and speedily prosecuted, as hitherto it hath been only pretended, and Treated rather in Jest than Earnest, by which, great Evils that threaten *Britain*, may be prevented: Or if this be impracticable, or on any Account rejected, The King and Parliament would be humbly Supplicated to Explicat our mutual Interests, so that we may be not be used by our Neighbours of *England*, during our Nominal Union with them, as Slaves in time of War, nor as Aliens in time of Peace: Of both which, hitherto we have had many sensible Experiments.

3<sup>to</sup>. Since it was thought that we might Legally Possess a part of the Isthmus of *America*, where the King of *Spain* pretended Right? Though he had Garrisons and Possessions nearly Adjacent; On this Ground, that he was not in actual Possession of the very Place; That now we may Address His Majesty, as King of *England*, to allow us the like Privilege and Faculty in the Isles and Continent of *America*, nearly Adjacent to the *English* Plantations, where we may have better Neighbourhood, and may claim more favour than from the *Spaniard*.

4<sup>to</sup>. That the Privileges, granted to Our Company, having been Rendered ineffectual hitherto, by what Occured, That therefore now, we may Supplicat the King and Parliament, for a further Prorogation of the time of our Privileges; And likewise, in consideration of our very great loss. And that this Project of Ours tended more to the National advantage, than to any private Gain. *Viz* The settling of a Colonie in *America*, in order to Vent our Native Products, by a Canal of Our own, and for bringing to us needfull things from Abroad, in return of our own Goods, and not by the wast of Our Stocks; And what is for a Common Good, should be sustained for a Common Stock, That therefore, the



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the King and Nation may Contribute to the Restoration  
of Our Company; For which end it is humbly proposed.

It is proposed, that since Wine imported in so great quantity as is usual, is so far from being of necessary use, That it may rather be esteemed superfluous, and yet a Prohibition of its Import absolutely is not acceptable to the People; That his Majesty may dispence with a 4th part of the Customs and Excise of Wines, Imported to the common Stock of the African Company.

This proposition will be the more acceptable to the Nation, If the Wines so favoured be restricted, only to the Wines Imported for the returns of their Exported Fish annually; And whereof sufficient proof is made, that they are returned on the Company's Account, and by the product of their Exported Fish.

Or if additional custom of a 4th part more than is payed presently for Wines, be added on all Wines not Imported to the Company on the return foresaid.

It is owned, that this will give the Company the whole benefit of the importing of Wine, which is no harmful consideration, since a prohibition of 3 parts of 4 of the Wine that is Imported will not only be Legal, but perhaps most fit; Yet since the generality of People are so desirous of its Import; And that its consumption is not by the poor, but by those who have Money to spare; The Importation of it may be the less grievous, That the profit thereof should go to support this Company, who whose designs and Trade will be so beneficial to the Nation; And by this, other Merchants will be thereby induced to Employ their Stocks on the other things which are necessary for the Nation, whereby the Nation may be better furnished in all these Materials, such as Timber, Iron, Salt for Fishing, Copper, Flax, Hemp, Soap, Alhes, materials for Sugar, &c. By which Manufactories

will certainly be increased : Idle hands Employed , and the poor sustained ; Whereas now Merchants Employ their Stocks upon Wines, and neglects the Materials of other Manufactories. So that the Priviledge of Importing of Wines, being only in the *African* Company's hands will both be some Advantage to the Company, and a General Good to the Nation.

And if the same Priviledge were granted to the Company on Tobacco, would be on the same Grounds desirable, and this would encourage the Company to bestow a great part of their Stock upon Fishery. And since the Design and Result of the *African* and *Indian* Trade will be without doubt to the Nation, in General ; And consequently to every Individual person in it, and that in Justice a common Good should have a general Concurrence and Support ; And that the generality of the Nation, especially the Great Men and Burrows, have professed a great and Extraordinar Zeal for the Concerns of this Company ; And that private Persons have now Expended on their private Stocks above 200000 lib. Sterling on this design, albeit the profit was indeed the result of the Nation, and is not now to be reattempted without a considerable support from the Nation, Therefore,

That three Months Cels yearly, for 3 or 4 years, may be imposed in favours of this Company, with this provision, That at least a third part thereof be employed on Fishings on the *Scattish* Seas , whereby the Money so employed will indeed come to the common National profit, and almost to every Person in it ; In so much that if this Quota of Money were put in the hands of good Managers, it is positively asserted, that it could not be so advantageously Employed even for the particular Persons of the Nation who contribute this Cels, as it may be for promoting a Fisherie, and an *Indian* Trade in this Companies Hands, as the Sequel of this Paper will shew.

And



And to the effect it may be Managed aright, it is proposed, that a General Council of the Company may be called presently, and three of every State, And some of the Kings Officers may join with the said Council, for establishing the Government thereof, in such Methods, and such Hands, as shall be by them judged most expedient, and that the Directors of the said Company thereafter shall be obliged to give Account of their Proceedings from time to time, that so the Nation may see how their Money is employed.

And to demonstrat, how much Benefit this may bring to the Nation in general, and that therefore the Nation should not grudge to encourage and sustain a Company, which hath already ventured so far for a National Concern, and will Undoubtedly continue so to do, if sustained. I shall take an Example from one Branch, viz: Fishery.

The Proposer and two or three other of his Friends, did in the latter end of *August* last, provide for making twelve Last of *Herrings* at *Dumbar*, and ordered for every Last two Barrel of *French* Salt, at six pound *per* Boll, and three Bolls of *Scots* Salt at two pound *per* Boll, and Cask and Hoops, which unmade, did cost about nine pound *per* Last, which is all the Expense that was bestowed on a Last, I mean, of Foreign Commoditie, in all amounting to 27 pound *per* Boll: For the Fish, the Cowpers, Wedges, the Servants Hyre and Meat, and carrying them from *Dumbar* to *Leith*, was all bestowed on *Scotsmen*; So was the payments made to the Fishers, the Fishers Boats, Netts, and Provisions were all *Scots*, and so was the price of the three Bolls of *Scots* Salt, viz: six pound; And consequently all the Expense on Foreign Goods for the Last, extended only to 21 pound. This Last was sold at *Leith* for ten pound the Barrel, *inde per* Last 120 pound, and at the same time the *Bush* Herring was sold at 15 pound the Barrel, which will extend to 180 pound *Scots* the

the Last, and yet in Bush Fishing, there is no money expended on *Foreign Commodities*; But the said 21 pound per Last, is salted in the foresaid manner. By which it plainly appears, that we did give out but 21 pound of money upon our Lasts. Yet if this Last had been sold to a *Foreigner*, at *Leith*, &c. at the foresaid price of ten pound the *Barrel*, *Scotland* had gotten 99 pound from the *Foreigner*, which was pulled out of the Sea: And albeit, perhaps we who thus employ our money on this Fishing, made no exuberant profit, yet the who's 99 pound accreted to the Stock of *Scotland*, which in a 1000 Last so made, *Scotland* would have acquired of Additional Stock 99000 pound, in less than four Months time, and if 10000 Last were so taken, there would accret to the Stock of *Scotland* thereby 990000 pound; And since the *Herring* taken by *Bush Fishing*, are acquired at little more Expence on *Foreign Goods*, and yet are considerably more valuable than the *Dumbar Herring*, 500 Bushels at 30 Last per Bush, and Loading but twice in a year, *1000000* last; Which sold at 14 lib. per *Barrel*, and deducting from that the price of the *Foreign Salt*, and *Timber* of the *Cask*; There will at least remain 12 lib. per *Barrel* free, which in 30000 Last cannot amount to less, then Three Million, or 3000000 pound *Scots*, of Addition to the Stock of *Scotland*; in less than 6 Months time: But if the *Bushes*, should Load thrice in a Season, (as in all probability they may, because of the nearness and convenientness, of the *Harbours* both in the *North* and *West Seas*; Then the Gain accruing to *Scotland*, would be four Million and Five Hundred Thousand pound *Scots*; And the same *Fishers*, *Servants*, and *Boats*, may be Employed the other half Year, on *White Fishing*; Which all, who understand *Fisheries*, says, is more valuable, then the *Herring*; And if that also, or the half thereof, were Yearly acquired to *Scotland*; How soon would it raise this Nation, from its present poverty; and banish all *Beggary*, by Employing all hands,

hands, that could Work, and acquire an *India* at our Doors, And the *Practicableness* hereof, is made out, from an undoubted Experiment be our Neighbouring Nation, the *Dutch*, who have risen by this Trade: from the *Rover States* to be indeed, an *Hogen Magen State*: And beginning with five *Bushes*, in *Euckbatufen*, They have encroached to above 1500 *Bushes*, consumed in *Europe*; And *Europe* will consume four times as much if they had them.

Some Frivolously Object, that the *Dutch* take so many, and Cure them so well, that there will be neither Room nor Room for Our Fishery; To which I Answer, That there is Mercat in *Europe* and *Africk* for twice as many as both *Holland* and *We* can take, For Meat and Drink never wanted Merchants. 2dly, I offer these Considerations to your Serious Thoughts; The *Hollanders*, who have bad Harbours, and dear Provisions, and lye from the *Norring Fishing* above 800 Miles, and the *School of Morning Sweaming* from *Zealand* to the Mouth of the *Firth of Forth*, are never more than 10 Leagues from some convenient Scots Harbour, so that in a modest Computation We may Unload twice or thrice for their once, if not four times: By which advantage alone, We are able to Underfell them, with Gain enough to Our selves. But to this advantage, add the numbers of Our Idle People, which are had for small hire, the Cheapness of Our Meat and Drink, the shortness of time that our Loading is making, for what they must Employ on every Loading of theirs, We may perform in less time by a third, And so by these advantages, We may Sell cheaper than they can. And yet a greater than all these, We having the opportunity to use the same Hands, Men and Ships, in *White Fishing* for the other half of the Year, and the *White Fish* ends lying also convenient near our Ports, will give Us advantages in Fishing, above what the *Hollanders* can have: So that if there be more Fish taken, than there be Mercat for

for, the loss must fall upon the *Hollanders*, and not upon Us. And for the Imaginary advantage they have, for Curing their Fish better than we do, Experience has Refuted that, For our last Fishery Company did Cure the Fish better than the *Hollanders* did, in the opinion of all *Europe*, and got better Price for their Fish; And indeed the opportunity we have for performing a great part of that Work on Land, doth help us much to Cure them better, than the *Hollanders* can.

I crave leave to Entreat Our Company, earnestly to consider this Proposition, for Employing some considerable Stock on Fishery, for albeit it do not bring an Exuberant Gain at every time, yet the Gain will be considerable frequent and constant, and ten *per Cent* or less, three or four times in the Year, ( which the *Herring* and White Fishing betwixt them may afford ) is a great Gain; And meanwhile tho the Company Gain not above Eight *per Cent*, Eighty *per Cent* will be added to the Stock of *SCOTLAND*: And by this means, the Company will Requite to the Nation Tenfold, what the Nation will conferr upon them: And that not for a Year two or three, but for this and succeeding Generations. And the constant Gain arising from this, may in so far ( prove a constant Fond, for sustaining an *America* Colonie, in some Tenible Place, and suitable to Our Power and Stock: And Pray, consider and Compare this with fixing a Colony on the Expence of Our Capital Stock, without a Future Fond to support them, or Probability of present Entertainment for them.

Since the whole project of this *African* Company, did propose a greater view of a General National good, then the advantage of particular Persons concerned therein: And that the Company hath already, both Ventured and lost, no less then 33 Months Cess of the whole Nation, given out of a



few privat Purfes; And it being apparent, that this Company if they prosecute the designs of Fisherie, and SCOTTS Manufactories, which will Improve the Nationall Stock, in manner abovementioned: And that by the product of their Labours, Care, and Direction, the Nation may be evidently enabled, and enriched, and the Company enabled also thereby, to establish an *American* Collony, and manage an AFRICAN and INDIAN Trade: That for Capacitating this Company; To prosecute so great a good for the Nation, and to repair in some measure their great Loss, on the Nationall design; And to evidence, that the Representative of the Nation, are desirous to Support a common Good, and to evince, that these Patriots who are Justly incensed by our Nationall and Companys Loss, shew that their Zeal is on so generous an Account, and not for Humour or privat designs. Here they have an opportunity to demonstrat it.

It would appear that none can justly reclaim, at this Nationall Contribution; since it is evident, that this private Company hath already, and will yet bestow far more than the gift from the Nation will amount to; And yet the Nation in general will gain three to one, for what the whole Company will gain, as appears in the Compute of the Fisherie, where the Nation gains Ten to one, with the Company; And I boldly say, were the whole three months Cels yearly, given by the Nation Employed on the Fisherie alone, the Company who Manages it on that Trade, would scarce have so much gain, as should be reasonably allowed on the Supervisors of such a Stock; And the whole rest of the gain, which will be above 80. *per cent*, being expending in, and on the Nation; Could not be so equally distribut for the good, and use of the Nation, and every province thereof, were it in their own hands, as it will be, by putting

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ing it for this end, and in this method, in the hands of  
the Company, for all of it will be Employed on working  
People, and in an Univerſall extent: And ſo it will be  
ſome favour to the Company, a great increaſe of the Nation-  
al Stock, and a great Charity to the Poor: And an certain  
method for increaſe of Shipping and Seamen, and in ſhort it  
will Undoubtedly put the Nation into that courſe, by which  
it muſt riſe in Riches and Strength, if ever it riſe. And this  
Favour craved, being of ſo Univerſal benefit, ſhould indeed  
be rather preſt upon the Company, then begged by them.

THEſE few Overtures and Conſiderations I hope ſhall receive  
many Additions from others, with which no Body ſhall be  
more ready to conſent in with Candor and Zeal, then I ſhall  
be, or to give my Reaſons, if I differ in opinion. As I am  
well pleaſed, that others do by me, in what I have propoſed  
for it is neither thanks nor applauſe, but the true good both  
of our Nation and Company I aim at. It's true I ſhall be  
very ſorry to find uſeleſſe Overtures offered, which may Em-  
bardeſſe, or hurtfull ones, which may impede the Effects,  
which I believe both the King and Parliament intend for  
us; nor do I think that a greater prejudice can be done to the  
Nation and Company in our preſent Circumſtances, then  
the ſuch Informations, which either ought not, nor cannot be  
granted.



